



Empowering Students  
Building Community



**"Your path after high school isn't linear" — start planning early, explore your options, and "know there are a lot of supports here at Encinal" to guide you every step of the way.**

**- Lee Kaplan, Encinal College Career Center Advisor**

Join us as Encinal's College and Career Advisor Lee Kaplan takes you on an essential journey through the **College and Career Center**. From college applications to career pathways, Lee shares crucial advice for students and parents, including tips on meeting **application deadlines**, maximizing **community college options**, securing **financial aid**, and setting up for **future success** from freshman to senior year. Don't miss this insightful discussion on navigating **post-high school opportunities** and making the most of high school resources!

## [Your Journey Starts Here: College & Career Center Essentials](#)

- > CCC Website: <https://encinal.alamedaunder.org/student-resources/college-and-career-center>
- > CCC IG Account: [https://www.instagram.com/jets\\_soaring\\_ccc/](https://www.instagram.com/jets_soaring_ccc/)
- > SCOIR: <https://app.scoir.com/signin> (use your AUSD Student Google Account)

### **Podcast Outline:**

#### **Chapter 1: Intro to College & Career Center**

- 1-1. Overview [0:18]
- 1-2. Meet the Advisors [1:20]
- 1-3. Senior Year & College Apps [1:58]
- 1-4. Financial Aid Basics [2:43]
- 1-5. Community College Pathways [3:45]
- 1-6. Career & Vocational Training [5:07]
- 1-7. Testing & Academic Support [5:30]
- 1-8. Work Permits & Driver's Ed [6:00]

#### **Chapter 2: Advice for Students & Parents**

- 2-1. Early College Planning [7:10]
- 2-2. Advice for Seniors [8:00]
- 2-3. Advice for Juniors & Sophomores [14:10]
- 2-4. Building a Strong Profile [18:10]
- 2-5. Advice for Freshmen [19:28]
- 2-6. School Resources & Parent Involvement [21:11]
- 2-7. Senior Year Application Tips & Deadlines [23:37]

#### **Chapter 3: Closing Thoughts & Call to Action [27:38]**



## Chapter 1: Intro to College & Career Center

### 1-1. Overview [0:18]

*Introduction to the mission of the College & Career Center, supporting students in planning their post-high school paths, from college to vocational training.*

### 1-2. Meet the Advisors [1:20]

*Lee Kaplan and Warren Morishige bring extensive experience and passion to guide students on college, career, and vocational paths, in collaboration with school counselors.*

### 1-3. Senior Year & College Apps [1:58]

- Importance of meeting A-G requirements for college eligibility.
- Tips for applying to UC, CSU, and other colleges.
- "Create a balanced list" of reach, match, and safety schools.

### 1-4. Financial Aid Basics [2:43]

- FAFSA and California Dream Act open in December; every senior is encouraged to apply.
- "There's a lot of unused money for college" – Lee emphasizes financial aid access.
- Cash for College workshops available for guidance.

### 1-5. Community College Pathways [3:45]

- Highlights the Alameda Promise program: two years of free tuition at College of Alameda.
- Benefits of starting at a community college with easier transfers to top universities.
- "Employers care about where you finish, not where you start."

### 1-6. Career & Vocational Training [5:07]

- Opportunities for students interested in trades, from internships to training programs.
- New staff member Louise supports students pursuing career-specific programs.

### 1-7. Testing & Academic Support [5:30]

- Updates on SAT, ACT, and AP test registration.
- Academic resources available include tutoring and after-school support.

### 1-8. Work Permits & Driver's Ed [6:00]



## Chapter 2: Advice for Students & Parents

### 2-1. Early College Planning [7:10]

- "It's never too early to start planning."
- Tips for freshman and sophomore years: focus on academics, explore interests, get involved in extracurriculars.

### 2-2. Advice for Seniors [8:00]

- Fall is "very busy" for seniors with application deadlines.
- Emphasis on meeting core requirements, retaking classes with Ds or Fs if needed, and attending college fairs.
- "The sooner, the better" when submitting applications to avoid technical issues.

### 2-3. Advice for Juniors & Sophomores [14:10]

- Importance of maintaining grades in sophomore and junior years as they impact college eligibility.
- "Colleges really pay attention to sophomore and junior grades."
- Involvement in clubs, leadership roles, and consistent extracurriculars build strong profiles.

### 2-4. Building a Strong Profile [18:10]

- Brag Sheets help document achievements for letters of recommendation.
- "Continuity matters more than quantity" – depth over breadth in extracurriculars shows commitment.

### 2-5. Advice for Freshmen [19:28]

- Freshman year is a time for exploration, finding interests, and practicing time management.
- Advice to try out clubs, sports, and new activities to build a well-rounded high school experience.

### 2-6. School Resources & Parent Involvement [21:11]

- Parent tools include Aeries, Google Classroom, and Parent Square.
- Website updates and Instagram account provide access to event and deadline information.



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## 2-7. Senior Year Application Tips & Deadlines [23:37]

- Tips for navigating CSU, UC, and Common App applications.
- "Submit early to avoid system glitches" and get multiple reviews before final submission.

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## Chapter 3: Closing Thoughts & Call to Action [27:38]

- Lee's message: "There's no linear path" – everyone's journey is unique, and students have options.
- Pathways include college, community college, trade schools, and vocational training.
- Encouragement to stay flexible and open: "If you're not happy, you can transfer; there's always room to start over."
- Final reminder: "There are resources here at Encinal to support you every step of the way."